



IPSAWG

Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group

Notes from IPSAWG Meeting November 15, 2005

Attending: Mike Cline, Ken Collins, Larry Nees, Keith Johnson, Phil O'Connor, Ellen Jacquart, Lee Casebere, Jeff Kiefer, Kirk Larson, Theresa Dailey, Tom Good, Hilary Cox, Glenn Nice, and Richard Phillabaum

1. Welcome and Introductions.

2. Voluntary Codes of Conduct.

Ellen gave a short presentation on the Voluntary Codes of Conduct. In December 2001, experts from across the globe met in St. Louis, Missouri to explore and develop workable voluntary approaches for reducing the introduction and spread of non-native invasive plants, which are serious threats to protecting biodiversity and ecosystems in the United States and other countries. Workshop participants developed the Voluntary Codes of Conduct, which help govern decisions by commercial, professional and government groups whose actions affect the spread of invasive plant species. Voluntary Codes of Conduct were developed that address government agencies, nursery professionals, the gardening public, landscape architects and botanic gardens and arboreta.

Ellen proposed that each of the partners of IPSAWG adopt the Voluntary Codes of Conduct, and that a key element of the codes would be to adopt the IPSAWG recommendations on individual species (draft version is attached, based on all assessments done to date). Discussion ensued.

It was pointed out that it will be important to have clear recommendations that accurately reflect IPSAWG's stand. Some of the recommendations are a bit complicated, particularly for reed canary grass. Therefore, all IPSAWG partners should review the attached draft recommendations and send comments to Ellen by December 15.

It was discussed that, at this point, many of the government agencies have incorporated the IPSAWG recommendations into their policies. Thus, adopting the Codes of Conduct will perhaps not require policy changes for a given agency, but it will allow the agency to publicly be recognized for their foresight and proactive policies.

An important issue is whether the IPSAWG recommendations could be taken in part, or if all recommendations need to be adopted. There was a very good discussion of this

point and the group agreed that, while there may be some variation in the specific codes an individual agency, business, or organization adopts, that the minimum requirement will be to adopt all IPSAWG recommendations.

Mike Cline noted that Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association is discussing the codes of conduct, and that Illinois NLA has already adopted them. Michigan NLA may adopt them as well. We discussed how to encourage businesses to adopt the codes by giving good publicity and some kind of green certification.

There was general agreement among partners that this is a valuable step to pursue. The first step is for each partner to review and make specific the general codes that are listed for agencies, nursery professionals, and so on. The following assignments were made to get codes of conduct drafted by December 1 for each partner:

Department of Natural Resources – Lee Casebere

Hoosier National Forest - Kirk Larsen

Muscatatuck NWR – Theresa Dailey

USFWS – Private Lands Program – Jeff Kiefer

NRCS – Ken Collins

Office of State Chemist- Seed Administrator – Larry Nees

Purdue University – Dept. of Agriculture (encompassing all extension programs and research) – Keith Johnson

Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association, Indianapolis Landscaping Association, Northwest Landscape Association – Mike Cline

Revised/refined codes of conduct for each entity should be sent to Ellen Jacquart by December 1. She will tweak them as necessary to provide for consistency where needed and send back out for partners to pursue signatures from the appropriate level of their organization.

3. Updates.

Weed free Hay and Straw Mulch program. Keith Johnson reported that the Indiana Crop Improvement Association has pursued establishing a weed-free hay and straw mulch program and that by 2006 there will be weed-free hay/straw available in Indiana. This is a big step and it would be great to see state and federal agencies start to require weed-free hay in horse recreational areas and weed-free straw mulch in contract specs for projects requiring straw on disturbed areas. Indiana Crop Improvement Association is to be commended for taking this on.

Two new weeds. Glenn Nice reported two new weeds for Indiana which were sent to him recently. Apple of Peru (*Nicandra physalodes*) was found growing next to a house. This is a perennial that is very difficult to control and has established in Ohio. It can be found in scattered counties in Indiana but has not yet been found moving into undisturbed areas. Secondly, a species of *Sesbania* (I didn't catch the specific epithet) was found growing next to a dogpen. This is a southern genus, and one theory in how it got to

Indiana is that it is a common weed in rice fields and the seed got into the dog food. Glyphosate does not affect this species.

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest by Elizabeth J. Czarapata – Ellen reported a new guide to invasive plants published by the University of Wisconsin Press. It is an excellent resource with great photos and information on identification and control. There is a great deal of overlap in the species in this book and our invasives in Indiana. To read more about it or order it, go to <http://www.ipaw.org/> and look for the book link at the bottom of the page.

Next meeting will be hosted by Glenn Nice:

January 11, 2006
at the **WILLIAM H. DANIEL TURF GRASS CENTER IN THE
LAFAYETTE AREA**

MORE ON START TIME AND DIRECTIONS WILL COME LATER.

DRAFT IPSAWG Recommendations on Invasive Species

Do not buy, sell, or plant in Indiana:

Asian bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. tatarica*, *L. morrowii*, *L. x bella*)
Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*)
Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)
Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)
Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
Blunt-leaved privet and other privets (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*, *L. vulgare*, *L. amurense*, *L. sinense*, *L. ovalifolium*)
Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)
Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
Crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*)
Japanese hops (*Humulus japonicus*)

Species-specific recommendations:

Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*): Plant only next to concrete or lawn

Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*):

Plant only for forage use (not for erosion or landscaping use) on poorly drained soils too wet to support other forage grasses and use best management practices to minimize spread

Yellow and white sweet clovers (*Melilotus officinalis*, *M. alba*):

Plant only for soil fertility ('green manure') and only if the sweetclover is not allowed to set seed.

Tall fescue (*Lolium arundacea*):

This species was **not** found to be invasive in Indiana. However, given its impact on wildlife recommendations were developed for its use as shown in this table (below).

*****Note – I don't know that it is appropriate to include this in the IPSAWG recommendations since the concerns are not related to its invasiveness. Please tell me if you think we should include it or provide information on tall fescue in some separate way from our official recommendations.***

Objective/Planting Site	Recommendation	Alternatives
Wildlife management	Do not use tall fescue of any type	Use the most diverse mix of native species possible
Dams	Use tall fescue where necessary to protect the dam face; if dam vegetation will be mowed to prevent seedhead production,	None needed – tall fescue is appropriate for this use.

	use low endophyte fescue. Do not use fire to maintain the fescue, as it has an adverse effect on this cool-season grass.	
Grass waterways	Use tall fescue with erosion blanket in waterways with greater than 1.5 fps of waterflow; if waterway vegetation will be mowed to prevent seedhead production, use low endophyte fescue.	For waterways with less than 1.5 fps of waterflow, use mix of grasses as specified in NRCS FOTG 412, such as switch grass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i>), timothy (<i>Phleum pretense</i>), and orchardgrass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>).
Highway roadsides	On highway roadsides in urban areas or where mowing is necessary for clear zone and site distance requirements and slopes of 4: 1 or greater use tall fescue for erosion control; since these roadsides will not be maintained to prevent spread of endophyte, any type of fescue may be planted.	None needed for highway roadsides in urban areas or where mowing is necessary for clear zone and site distance requirements and slopes of 4:1 or greater – tall fescue is appropriate for this use. For highway roadsides with less of a slope, a mix of such native grasses as Indian grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>), little bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>), big bluestem (<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>), switch grass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i>), prairie dropseed (<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>), Canada wild rye (<i>Elymus canadensis</i>), bottlebrush grass (<i>E. hystrix</i>), and side-oats grama (<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>) or non-invasive non-native grasses such as timothy (<i>Phleum pretense</i>) and orchardgrass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>) is appropriate. For temporary cover, add oats (<i>Avena sativa</i>) or annual ryegrass (<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>) to the mix.
Unpaved/county roadsides which bisect natural areas	Do not use tall fescue of any type	Use a mix of shade tolerant or intolerant (depending on site) native grasses to that region. In addition to the native grasses listed above, woodland brome (<i>Bromus pubescens</i>), Virginia wild rye (<i>Elymus virginicus</i>), riverbank wild rye (<i>E. riparius</i>), and silky wild rye (<i>E. villosus</i>) are appropriate to use.
Forage	Use low-endophyte tall fescue in settings where this species is preferable because of site conditions (poor soil) or management objectives (need drought-tolerant species or late season forage); apply Best Management Practices to assure rate of infection does not rise (mow or graze to prevent seed set, do not bring equipment or hay bales from endophyte-infected areas into the site).	Tall fescue is appropriate for some forage uses; where possible, however, use other species that could also meet your management objectives. Cool-season grass species to consider include orchardgrass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), smooth brome grass (<i>Bromus inermis</i>), perennial ryegrass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>) and timothy (<i>Phleum pretense</i>). Inclusion of an adapted legume with tall fescue is recommended.
‘Wildlife Repellant’ to deliberately decrease the use of an area by wildlife (airports, orchards, etc.)	Regardless of endophyte infection, there will still be wildlife (especially small mammals and raptors) in tall fescue areas. It is not effective as a wildlife repellant.	For more effective methods to repel wildlife, see the FAA guide Wildlife Hazard Management at Airports at http://www.faa.gov/arp/pdf/manfin.pdf